

Rainbow Romp

These activities have been adapted from *Walk This Way! Classroom Hikes to Learning* by Rebecca Olien. 1998. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann

Topic: Eco Kids

Objectives: Observe colors in nature

Grade Level: pre-k – 3rd

Time: 20 - 25 minutes

Vocabulary:
natural
frame
hue
shade

Materials: sample paint strips in a variety of natural colors especially strips in shades of greens or browns, index cards for picture frames, paint brushes, small plastic containers of clean water

Location: Lake Clara Meer, Lake Grove, Saturn Playground

Background: Are all leaves the same color? Is water always blue? What color are rocks? In this set of park activities you will discover the many different colors and different hues of color that abound in the natural world.

Advance Preparation: Cut rectangles from the centers of index cards to make cardboard picture frames for each child.

Procedure:

1. While walking to a park location, have the children look for things of a specific color that they would not ordinarily expect to find in nature. Red or yellow, for example. Let them call out what they see as they walk. Count how many different things of a certain color they find.
2. Stop at a selected location in the park and give each child a cardboard picture frame. Tell them to “make a picture” of a colorful scene around them by framing it with their index card frame. Have them describe their pictures and the different colors they see inside their picture frame. Ask them if they see different shades of green or different hues of brown.
3. Move to a different location in the park. Give each child a sample paint strip in shades of greens or browns. Tell them to hold their strip up against leaves, stems, bark, rocks, dirt or other natural objects to find matching colors. Ask them to describe what they found. Ask them how many different shades of green (or brown) they found in nature.

4. At another park location, give each child a watercolor paintbrush and a small plastic jar of water. Have them brush water on small natural objects such as rocks, acorns, dried leaves, green leaves, twigs, or flowers. Let them pretend that they are magically giving color to the objects they paint. Ask them to notice what happens to the object's color when they brush it with their "magic" paintbrush. Let them share what surprises their "magic" paintbrushes revealed.